

June 16, 2006

Dear Fire Chief:

The Safety and Buildings Division (S&B) is happy to provide you with a copy of a statistical report of Wisconsin fire department incident data submitted for 2004 to the National Fire Incident Reporting System. It's titled "2004 Wisconsin Burning."

S&B Fire Prevention Program staff have made a strong effort to accurately and effectively report the 2004 data to you. Susan Birren and Carl Frisque, two of our Fire Prevention Coordinators, have trained on and studied the use of the NFIRS system as a tool for fire safety planning on local, state, and national levels. (Nevertheless, we'll be glad to hear from you on ways to make Wisconsin Burning reports more useful.)

Improvement in the reporting effort on our end coincides with efforts to increase the reporting of fire data to NFIRS by Wisconsin fire departments. We show an increase in the number of departments that reported for 2004, compared to 2003. That's encouraging!

In comparing the 2004 data to 2003's, using our new knowledge of NFIRS, we haven't been able to verify to our satisfaction some data in the 2003 report, which we created about a year ago. We have confidence in the 2004 Wisconsin Burning numbers after double-checking them, and suggest some cautiousness if you compare the 2004 numbers to those in the 2003 report. The 2003 report is also enclosed. Both reports can be found on our Fire Prevention Program Web page, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-FirePreventionProgram.html>.

I think things are improving in our summation of incident data for fire safety planning purposes and in fire department's reporting the data. S&B Fire Prevention Coordinators, who can be contacted through information shown on the reverse side of this page, will be working with you on incident reporting.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact one of the coordinators.

Sincerely,

Robert G. DuPont,
Program Development Bureau Director

Enclosures:
2004 Wisconsin Burning
Wisconsin Burning 2003